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Off Road Vehicle Trails

Lee Ranger District

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George Washington
National Forest

Forest
Service



Southern
Region

Off-road vehicle trails on the George Washington National Forest

This brochure is intended to help the motorist enjoy the National Forest safely and responsibly, while appreciating natural surroundings. Driving off-road vehicles, for pleasure, including off-road recreation vehicles, is one of the many uses of National Forest lands. At the same time, it is recognized that improper handling of a machine

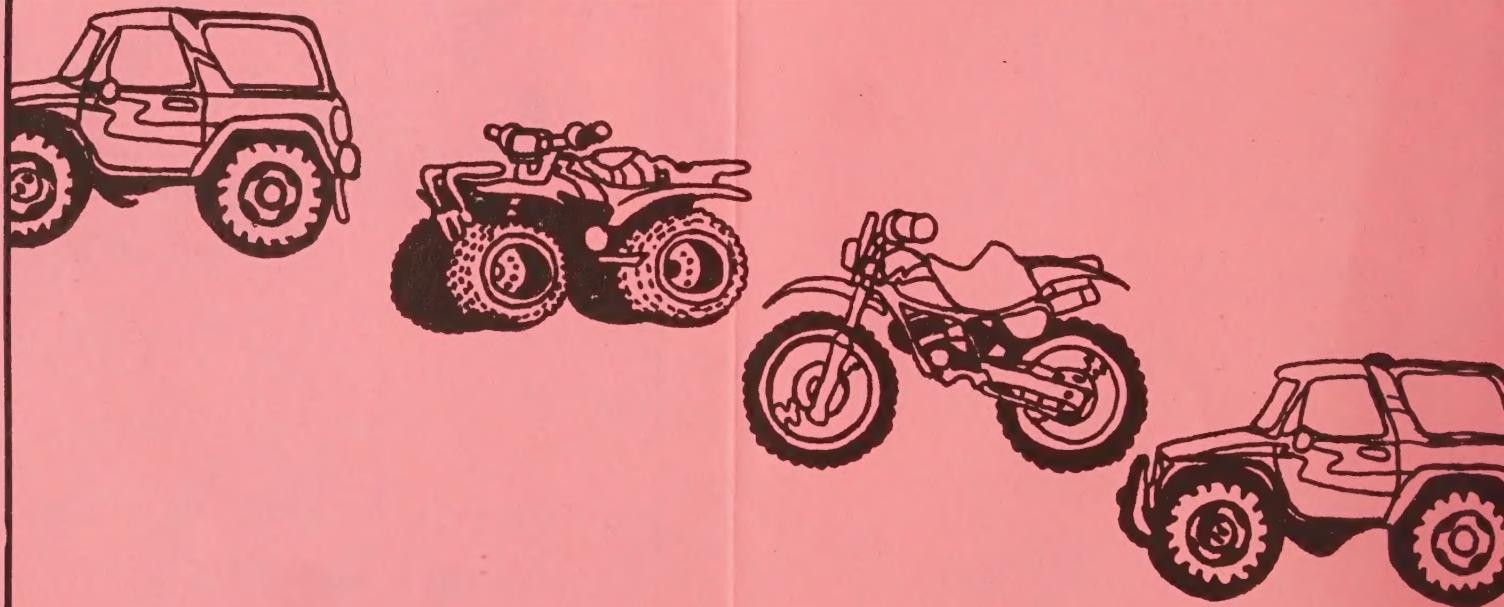
can damage the resources of these lands. Because of this potential impact, the driver must assume responsibility for proper vehicle operation.

Off-road vehicles (ORVs) include four wheel drive vehicles, motorcycles, motorbikes, three and four-wheel all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).

The operation of off-road vehicles is a popular and growing sport which is recognized as a valid use of the George Washington National Forest.

The Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, which is now being revised, identifies where ORV/ATV trails are or may be constructed. This plan will guide management of the forest for the next 10 to 15 years. Preparation of the plan includes considerable public participation to identify and resolve such issues as what should be an appropriate ORV policy on the forest.

The following explains legal ORV operation on the forest.

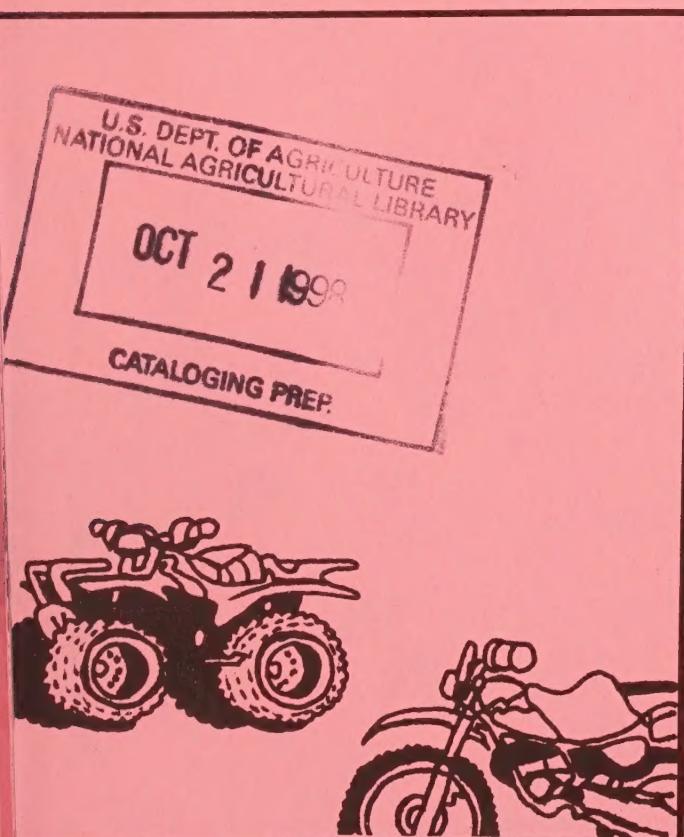


Areas open for ORV use

All roads normally open for public travel are available for use provided the vehicle and the operator are in compliance with motor vehicle laws of the State. Currently, most ATVs cannot be licensed or registered in the states of Virginia or West Virginia. Therefore, most ATV operation is restricted to only those roads and trails which are specifically designated and signed for their use.

The Forest Plan identifies areas for the establishment of designated systems of ORV/ATV trails. These systems will be designed to meet the needs of the ORV/ATV users and protect resource values such as soil and water. Various interest groups will help in identifying appropriate roads and trails for this system.

Specific ORV trails must be posted as open if they are available for this use.



Areas closed to ORV use

- Cross country motorized vehicle travel is not permitted.
- Motorized vehicles are not permitted to travel on closed roads. Closure is usually indicated by one or more of the following: a closed gate, tank trap and/or closure signs.
- Trails are closed to motorized vehicle travel unless they are specifically signed as open.

Operating conditions

Virginia state law requires operators of motorcycles and ATVs to wear safety helmets and prohibits riding double. Operators must have an operator's license. This means juveniles cannot operate machines.

It is prohibited to operate any vehicle, including off-road vehicles, on the George Washington National Forest under the following conditions:

- Without a valid operator's license or learner's permit as required by the law of the state in which the vehicle is being operated.
- Without a valid vehicle license as required by the state law where the vehicle is maintained.
- While under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- In a careless or reckless manner, or in a manner which may endanger any person or property.
- On any trail not specifically designated for motorized vehicle travel.
- Cross-country.

ORV trails

The Lee Ranger District offers two trail systems for all-terrain vehicles and other off-road vehicle enthusiasts: Peters Mill Run and Taskers Gap.

Both systems can be accessed off Va. Highway 675 southeast of Edinburg.

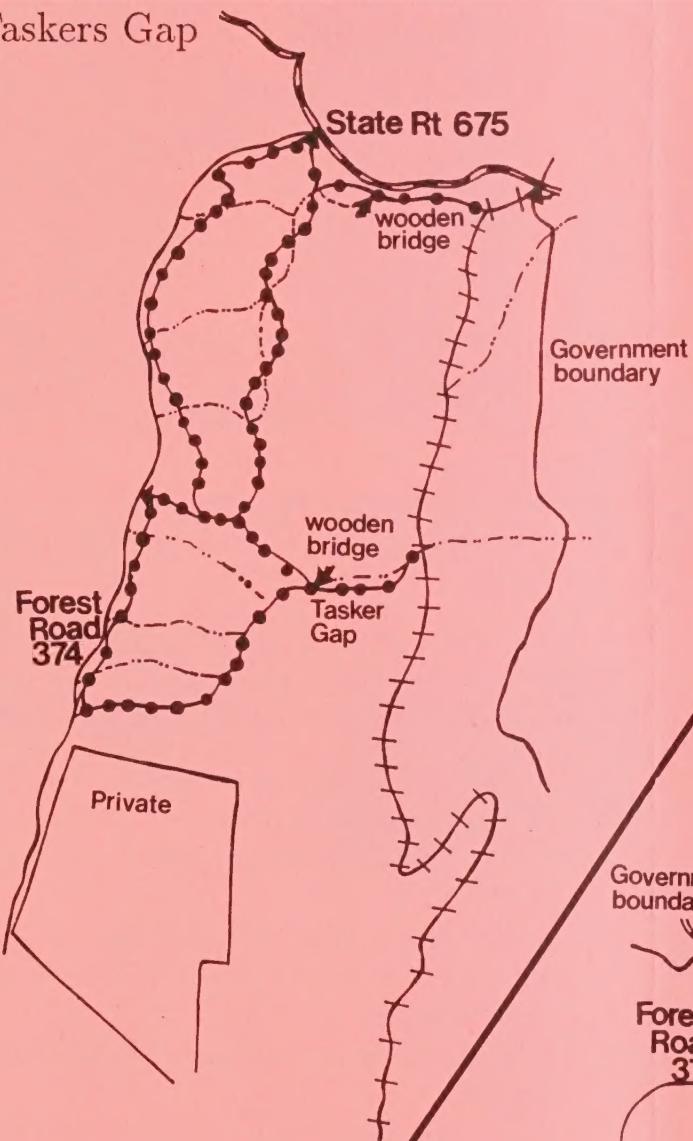
KEY

Open to ATV ●●●●

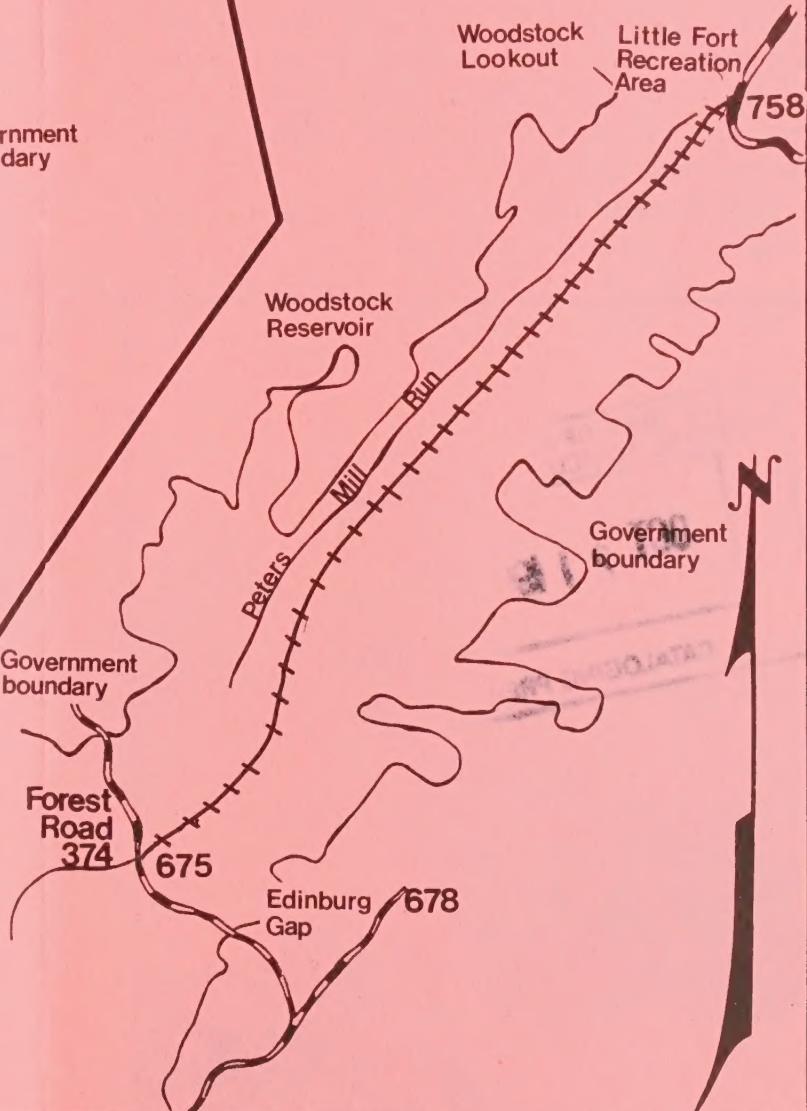
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State Highway

Taskers Gap



Peters Mill Run





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TREAD LIGHTLY!
ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND

Please tread lightly. You are only one of thousands of individuals who will visit the forest this year to enjoy the out-of-doors and discover the many ways in which the National Forests help to meet the nation's natural resource and recreation needs.

Volunteers are needed for the "Adopt-a-trail" program to help construct and maintain ORV routes and encourage user education. Please let us know if you or your group can help.

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